

ICPS newsletter®

Tobacco in Ukraine: the country's population shrinks, while the number of smokers grows

The results of the survey called "Tobacco in Ukraine: the national poll on tobacco-related knowledge, attitude and behavior" are not comforting. This survey registered one of the highest smoking prevalence among males across the world—67%. The poll that was carried out by the Kyiv International Institute of Sociology and commissioned by the International Centre for Policy Studies confirmed once again: the problem of tobacco needs a proper government policy

In 1994, the Ukrainian population was approximately 52mn, while now this indicator fell below 47mn. This record-high drop in the population numbers over the recent years is explained by the high level of untimely deaths. Tobacco is one of the factors behind high mortality and early deaths in Ukraine.

In 2005, the overall prevalence of smoking among the adult population of Ukraine was 41% or 15.5mn Ukrainians. At the same time, 9% of respondents were former smokers (3.4mn Ukrainians) and 50% of respondents (18.8mn Ukrainians) were non-smokers.

Annual consumption of cigarettes by Ukrainian smokers constantly grows. At the moment, annual volume of the

Ukrainian cigarette market is approximately 84bn cigarettes (4.2bn packs), worth about UAH 8–9bn. This indicator is much higher than the estimates made in late 1990s.

Smoking prevalence among Ukrainian men is one of the highest in the world, at 67%. The highest smoking prevalence among men is 75% in Eastern and 68% in Northern Ukraine, whereas the lowest smoking prevalence among males was registered in Kyiv (61%). Smoking prevalence is lower among better-educated men, those living in larger cities and those with a higher income.

Smoking prevalence among Ukrainian women is 20% and it constantly grows. The smoking prevalence distribution

among women is the opposite of that among Ukrainian men: more educated, more affluent women and those who live in larger cities smoke at higher rates than less educated women with lower income levels in more rural settings. This may be a sign of a growing tobacco epidemic among Ukrainian women. As for women, smoking prevalence in Western and Northern Ukraine (12–14%) is almost half of what is found in Eastern and Southern Ukraine and in Kyiv (23–26%).

Legislative steps aimed at reducing consumption of tobacco products in Ukraine are not comprehensive. Taxes on tobacco products are raised at a more sluggish pace than the inflation rate grows. Advertising of tobacco products is restricted on television, radio and in some other media; however, outdoor advertising, advertising in points of sales and other types of tobacco advertising are represented broadly. The legislation on a comprehensive ban on tobacco advertising has not been adopted yet.

Ukrainians begin to smoke at a tender age. Half of the men who have ever

Industrial Restructuring in the NIS: Experience of and Lessons from the New EU Member States

In early June, the International Centre for Policy Studies hosted a seminar under the "Industrial Restructuring in the NIS: Experience of and Lessons from the New EU Member States" (INDEUNIS), an international research project. The primary goal of this project is to provide a comprehensive and up-to-date analysis of the recent experience in economic transition, industrial restructuring and integration in both the new EU Member States from Central and Eastern Europe and the selected Newly Independent States (NIS). During this seminar, specialists from ten research organizations in Austria, Belarus, Estonia, Finland, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Poland, Russia, and Ukraine made presentations on their studies.

Presentations of participants dealt with such issues as border integration within the NIS, the consequences for the NIS economies resulting from their accession to the World Trade Organization and from further expansion of the EU, structural changes in the economy and foreign trade of the NIS and EU countries.

Experts established that the new EU Member States have a diversified structure of trade, which was fostered by active attraction of foreign direct investment and by the creation of new sectors in their economies. At the same time, accession of such countries as Estonia and Hungary to the EU led to painful

restructuring and elimination of many uncompetitive sectors. Researchers also drew attention to further economic disintegration of the FSU countries and mainly exported resources from Belarus, Kazakhstan, Russia, and Ukraine to the EU. Participants in this seminar agreed that accession of the NIS countries to the WTO is inevitable, as it is a component of integrating economies of this region into global trade.

During this seminar, ICPS economists presented their research into the provision of government assistance in Ukraine in the context of the EU requirements and the attraction of foreign investment into Ukraine. The main conclusion is that restructuring of the country's economy—that is, modernization or even closure of companies, addressing negative social consequences—will require significant financial support. Therefore, an important point is to develop government policies that, on one hand, will help attract private investors to new sectors and companies and, on the other, will contribute to efficient distribution and spending of government support.

The INDEUNIS project is being funded by the European Union's Sixth Framework Program. For additional information, contact Ildar Gazizullin by tel. at (380-44) 484-4400 or via e-mail at igazizullin@icps.kiev.ua.

smoked had their first cigarette under 15 years of age. Half of the women who ever smoked had their first cigarette under 17 years of age.

Ukrainian smokers smoke at least 10 cigarettes per day. The average number of cigarettes smoked per day is 16 for male smokers and 11 for female smokers. The majority of male smokers use regular-strength cigarettes and the majority of female smokers use light cigarettes. Monthly expenditures on tobacco products are significantly higher for those who smoke light rather than

regular-strength cigarettes (UAH 45 versus UAH 38). On the average, light smokers (1–10 cigarettes per day) spend UAH 22 per month, medium smokers (11–20 cigarettes per day) spend UAH 48 per month and heavy smokers (21+ cigarettes per day) spend UAH 90 per month on tobacco products. **The majority of the Ukrainian population perceive themselves to be exposed to environmental tobacco smoke at least on a daily basis.** Environmental tobacco smoke exposure is more prevalent in larger cities than in towns and villages, and for people with higher incomes

compared to lower ones. Six in ten (61%) households either have no smokers or require people to smoke outdoors. ■

The "Policy Campaign for Tobacco Control" Project was implemented by the International Centre for Policy Studies jointly with the Tobacco Control Resource Center and with the financial support from the International Renaissance Foundation and the Network Public Health Program of the Open Society Institute. For additional information, contact Project Manager Andriy Beha by telephone at (380-44) 484-4400 or via e-mail at abega@icps.kiev.ua.

Sea Breeze 2006: the campaign to promote NATO is being lost

An ambiguous situation over the lack of legislation to permit the conducting of the Sea Breeze 2006 military exercises in Ukraine became the excuse for a widespread campaign against joining NATO. Although NATO has no direct relationship to these exercises and Ukraine has so far been acting in accordance to existing legislation, the Yekhanurov Government once more failed to explain its position effectively to voters and to explain what was going on

The Sea Breeze exercises are not a NATO event. They are a joint Ukrainian–American training series that involved both NATO countries and countries that do not belong to the Alliance. The Sea Breeze exercises have been held annually since 1997. From that first year, Russia has participated in these exercises as an observer. The efforts of such parties as the Progressive Socialists and the Communists to link these exercises with NATO have no legal basis and are pure politics. Unfortunately, neither the press nor the Government was able to objectively present the situation and the real motives of the organizers of the protests. In the public mind, these exercises have now begun to be clearly associated with NATO.

The Ukrainian Government has been acting completely within the law. The Verkhovna Rada needs to pass a law only for the actual carrying out of the exercises and not for the preparations for those exercises. On the reasonable assumption that the VR would approve such a bill, the Defense Ministry began preparing for the exercises with its international partners, which included the delivery by the American merchant transporter Advantage of military and civilian property for this purpose. On the

ship were representatives of the US Department of Defense.

According to the Law On the procedure for admitting and the conditions for the stay of military divisions of the Armed Forces of other countries on the territory of Ukraine, the agreement of the Verkhovna Rada is needed only in the event that divisions of the Armed Forces of another state are being landed on Ukrainian territory. Since representatives of the US DOD hardly qualify as a "military division," the ship's cargo was not ammunition for such a division, and the vessel was not a military one, the Border Service of Ukraine, according to prior agreement, had every reason to admit this ship into a Ukrainian port without the say so of the Verkhovna Rada. The fact remains that the Government and Defense Ministry miscalculated the importance of providing complete advance information on this issue. The media took this silence as indicating that they doubted the legitimacy of their own steps.

This scandal has led to even greater unconstructive political competition. Much of the press failed to understand the situation properly and too often published conflicting and incorrect information. Those factions that are determined to oppose the Government, the Party of the Regions and the Communist Party, took

advantage of the situation to score political points and to underscore the ineffectiveness of the current Administration. PR demonstrated to the president just how important its presence might be in resolving regional issues. The CPU yet again pressed home its anti-NATO position. The Government showed its complete inability to work effectively with the public and to inform voters of its position. The partners in a potential Orange coalition were unable to ensure that the Verkhovna Rada made the necessary decision in time. This provides additional reason to doubt in their future ability to resolve foreign policy issues.

These events showed just how totally ineffective the Government is in promoting the idea of NATO among Ukrainians. What is more, the situation was completely taken advantage of by those domestic political forces that are against Ukraine's integration with NATO and by Russia. The main impact of these events was to damage Ukraine's international image and to shake the faith of its foreign partners in the power of the Ukrainian Government to effectively continue on the course of Euro-Atlantic integration. As a result of this scandal, public support for joining NATO, which was already relatively low, sank even lower. Given the likelihood that there will be a referendum on the issue of joining the North Atlantic Alliance, Ukraine's government has suffered a serious blow. ■

For additional information, please contact ICPS director Victor Chumak by telephone at (380-44) 484-4400 or via e-mail at vchumak@icps.kiev.ua.

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icps newsletter editor: Olha Lvova (olvova@icps.kiev.ua)
Phone: (380-44) 484-4400. Fax: (380-44) 484-4402.
English text editor L.A. Wolanskyj.
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Address: vul. Pymonenka 13A, Kyiv, Ukraine 04050
Web-site: <http://www.icps.com.ua/eng/>